

REMARKS

Claims 18 and 20-30 are now pending in the application, including amended claim 18 and new claims 20-30. In the Office Action, claim 18 in the form previously pending was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,786,650 to Hoory et al. ("Hoory"). For the reasons set forth below, applicants submit that the claims are fully distinguished from Hoory and all other art of record in the application.

As presented herein, new claim 21 recites a method of processing speech information of a speaker in which speech information obtained for an utterance of the speaker is compared to voiceprint information to identify a characteristic of the speaker. The identified characteristic is one or more of the speaker's gender, height, weight, age, occupation, hobbies, or preferences. In accordance with the identified characteristic of the speaker, a control command is then generated and the speech information is converted to character data. In accordance with the control command, the character data is subjected to predetermined processing to form processed character data, such that the characteristic of the speaker is identifiable from the processed character data.

The method recited in claim 21 is fully distinguishable from each of the references of record in the application. While the cited references describe methods which determine the prosody (rate, pitch and volume) of inputted speech, none describes a method by which one or more of the speaker's gender, height, weight, age, occupation, hobbies, or preferences are identified by comparing speech information for an utterance with a voiceprint. Nor does any of the cited references teach or suggest converting the speech information to character data and processing the character data such that the

speaker's characteristic is identifiable from the processed character data.

Claims 22 through 25 recite further aspects of an embodiment of the invention which are believed to distinguish the invention from the cited references.

In addition, independent claims 26, 27 and 29 contain recitations similar to those of claim 21, making these claims allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as discussed above. Claims 28 and 30 also contain additional recitations which are believed to distinguish the invention from the cited references.

Moreover, as amended herein, claim 18 now recites an information transmission method which is performed within a network which includes first and second information processing apparatuses, a server and links over which they communicate. In the first process, input speech information is captured and changed to character data. The character data is sent to a network *under administration of the server by the first information processing apparatus*. In the second information processing process, *under administration of the server*, the character data is received from the network by the second information processing apparatus. Second speech information is generated from the received character data and the received character data is outputted using the second speech information.

Hoory and other references of record neither teach nor suggest an information transmitting method in which character data is transmitted to a network under administration of a server and is received from the network under administration of the server. Hoory merely describes a system in which data is transmitted point-to-point between a PC and a PDA, e.g., directly or wirelessly. Other references, such as U.S. Patent No. 6,119,086 to Ittycheriah and U.S. Patent No. 6,678,659 to Van Kommer, while describing transmission of data converted from

speech over a network, neither teach nor suggest all of the features of the method recited in claim 18.

Similar recitations are contained in claims 18 and 20, based on which these claims are believed to be distinguished from the art of record.

Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0043] through [0059] and [0125] through [0130] of the Specification and the various Figures, *viz.* FIGS. 1, 2 and 11.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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